

The Communications Act of 1934, actively limited multiple station ownership, especially within markets. By the early 1930's it was perfectly clear what would happen if a situation like what we have now were to be permitted. I think in years to come it will be seen just how amazing the vision was of the people who drafted that act.

To actually make the public interest the primary determinant! Sure, one result of that was that there were a good many stations that sounded distinctly amateurish. So what? There was interesting stuff on those stations. And a lot of crap, to be sure. Now, it's basically all crap, outside of public radio, and the same people who engineered the broadcast part of the Telecommunications Act of 1995 are still doing their damndest to get rid of that, so that small segment of the FM band can be swallowed up by the existing corporate empires. The airwaves are dominated by automated music generators that soothe according to taste, and by right and left-wing drivel. How does any of that benefit the nation? Under the '34 rules, every station was virtually required to have its own personality, and to be very strongly community-based. It was the town crier, especially in small towns. Automation was bad enough, but automated programming fed to all the radio markets in the country is a true abomination.

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